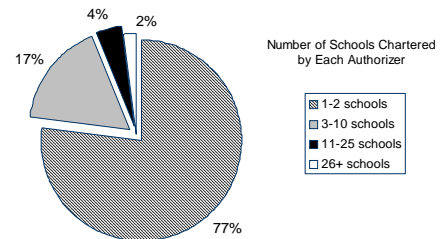


Quality Charter School Authorizing – Overview

National. Approximately 700 charter school authorizers have chartered nearly 3,000 public schools nationwide.

Entities with chartering authority include:

- School districts: everywhere
- State boards of education: e.g., AK, CA, CT, DE, HI, MA, NC, NJ, NY
- Independent state chartering agencies: AZ, DC, UT
- Colleges and universities: IN, MI, MN, MO, NY, OH, WI
- Non-profit organizations: MN, OH
- Municipalities: IN (mayor's office of Indianapolis)
WI (Milwaukee Common Council)



California. Approximately 220 district and county boards and the state board have authorized nearly 500 charter schools. Local school boards are the primary California authorizers, but county offices and the state board of education have long been authorizers on appeal and recent legislation has extended direct chartering authority to them under limited circumstances. Los Angeles USD, San Diego City Schools, Oakland USD and Twin Ridges Elementary District are the most active. AB 2764 would extend chartering authority to state colleges and universities and place the state board in the role of licensing such authorizers.

NACSA. Identifies and explores the core set of issues and responsibilities associated with a comprehensive approach to charter school authorizing and provides practical guidance to authorizers through orientations and workshops, publications, communications, and direct technical assistance.

Principles of Authorizer Organization

1. **Roles and Responsibilities.** A quality authorizer engages in responsible oversight of charter schools by ensuring that schools have both the autonomy to which they are entitled and the public accountability for which they are responsible.
2. **Agency Capacity and Infrastructure.** A quality authorizer commits the human, organizational, and financial resources necessary for conducting its authorizing duties effectively.

Principles of Authorizer Practice

3. **Petition Process.** A quality authorizer implements a rigorous, comprehensive application process that follows fair procedures and clear criteria and awards charters to developers who demonstrate strong potential for establishing and operating a high quality charter school.
4. **Charter or Performance Contract.** A quality authorizer negotiates contracts with charter schools that clearly articulate the rights and responsibilities of each party regarding school autonomy, legal requirements, expected outcomes, measures for evaluating success or failure under the terms of the contract, and performance consequences.
5. **Ongoing Oversight and Evaluation.** A quality authorizer conducts oversight that evaluates performance, monitors compliance, informs intervention and renewal decisions, and ensures the autonomy to which each charter school is entitled under its charter and applicable law.
6. **Renewal Decisionmaking.** A quality authorizer designs and implements a rigorous, comprehensive, and transparent process that uses multiple sources of data to make renewal decisions based a school's academic, financial, and organizational performance in relation to the terms of its contract.

*The **National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA)** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization of educational entities across the country that authorize and oversee charter schools. NACSA's mission is to promote the establishment and operation of quality charter schools through responsible oversight in the public interest.*